

# Governor's Challenge and Veteran Suicide Prevention Updates

## **Carol Ruddell**

Suicide Prevention Administrator  
Office of Substance Use and  
Mental Health  
Co-chair, Governor's Challenge



Utah Department of  
**Health & Human**  
Services

## **Cory Pearson**

Deputy Director, Veteran Services  
Utah Department of Veteran and  
Military Affairs  
Co-Chair, Governor's Challenge

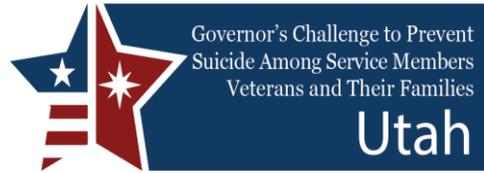
## **Lauren Gilbertson**

Veteran Suicide Prevention Manager  
Utah Department of Veterans and Military  
Affairs



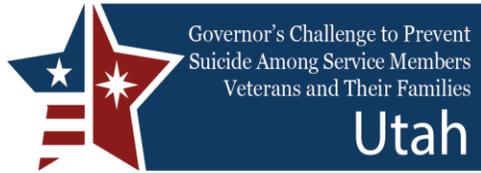
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# Overview

- Governor's Challenge
- Veteran Suicide Prevention Manager
- Questions



# Governor's Challenge Updates

- Utah joined Spring 2021

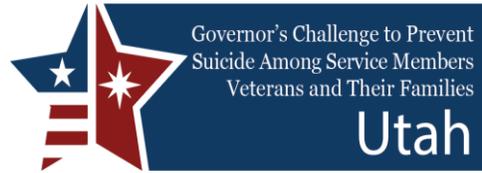
“A call to action, asking state military and civilian interagency teams to embark on a process of collaborating, planning, and implementing suicide prevention best practices and policies for Service Members, Veterans and Families (SMVF) state-wide.”



# Priority Area Groups

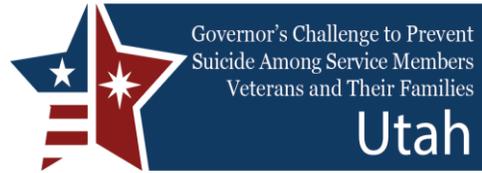


- #1 Identify Service Members, Veterans and their families and screen for suicide risk
- #2 Promote connectedness and improve care transitions
- #3 Increase lethal means safety and safety planning



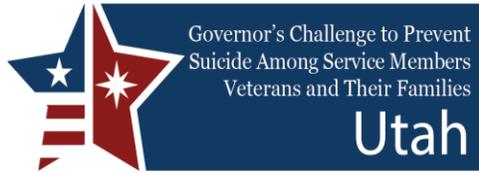
# Strategic Plan

- Evidence Based Practices
- Suicide Prevention Infrastructure
- Data-Driven Planning
- Engaged Leadership
- Sustaining Resources



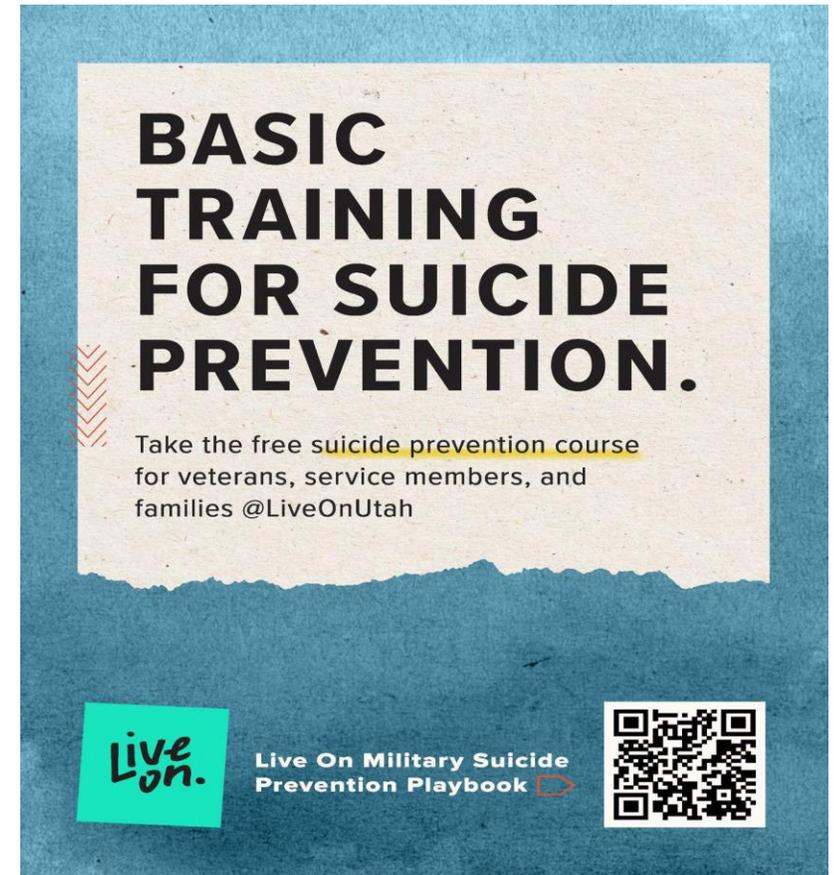
# Priority Area 1: Identify SMVF

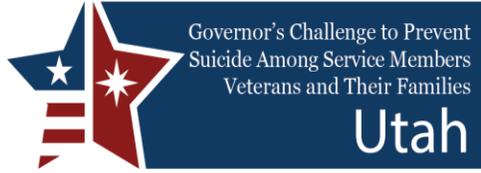
- Develop and conduct “Ask the Question” training for health care providers and crisis responders to identify SMVF.
- Assist in creating Governor’s Challenge website and resource page: <https://veterans.utah.gov/governors-challenge/>.



# Priority Area 2: Promote Connectedness

- Purple Star schools - training to faculty and staff about military culture and transitions.
- Collaboration with the LiveOn Utah Campaign to create an SMVF suicide prevention playbook along with marketing materials to promote awareness throughout the community.





## Priority Area 3: Lethal Means Safety

- Collaboration with Utah stakeholders and partners
- Creation of Firearm Safety and Safe Storage document
- Revision of CALM training for healthcare providers

# When Firearm Safety and Safe Storage is Your Goal

The safest thing to do while someone is at increased risk for suicide in your home is to store your firearms outside your home.



First, watch [this](#) video from a firearms expert to understand why.



Next, see what a short training module used in Utah Concealed Carry classes recommends for [Firearm Suicide Prevention](#).



Finally, watch this [short five-minute video](#) from the Utah Shooting Sports Council to learn more about warning signs and recommendations on safe firearm storage.



Take our [Live Well Suicide Awareness training](#) to learn more about suicide prevention with the tools you need to talk about suicide and help those in suicidal crisis be safe and access the resources they need.



## 🏠 Safe Off-Site Storage Options Include:

**A Trusted Family Member or Friend:** Phone a friend or family member. It will not only keep you and your loved one safe, but it will also provide you with more support to manage this difficult time.

**Law Enforcement:** Call local law enforcement to understand the procedures for giving them your firearms and returning them to you.

**Offsite Storage at a Self-Storage Rental Facility:** Some facilities have safety deposit boxes and smaller options if you are storing handguns. If you have shotguns and rifles, you may need a bigger space.

**Shooting Ranges or Gun Shops:** Some facilities have storage options. Call ahead to find out. You could also take your firearm(s) in to be cleaned and serviced and have them hold them until the risk is decreased.

**Pawn Shops:** Many pawn shops will hold your firearms either as a pawn item or for a small fee. Call ahead to verify with your local pawn shop.

## 🏠 When Off-Site Storage is **not** an Option, the Next Best On-Site Storage Options Include:

**Store Your Firearm(s) in a Gun Safe or Firearm-Specific Storage Lock Box:** Lock unloaded firearms with a cable-style gun lock, remove the firing pin and store them securely, change codes or keys in case the person at risk has learned them.

**Temporarily Store Ammunition Off-Site:** Temporarily remove ammunition from your home or keep it in a separate locked location from secured firearms.

**Trigger Locks and Cable Locks:** Trigger and cable locks aren't as safe as locking in a secure gun safe, but they are better than not locking at all. In addition, they can be used with a gun safe for extra protection.

**Remove a Key Component of the Firearm:** Remove the firing pin, slide, or other critical component and give it to a family member or friend to hold until the risk has passed.



## Other Options

**Voluntary No-Buy/No-Possess List:** Utah created a [voluntary lethal means restriction list](#) where any person may request their rights to purchase or possess firearms be temporarily restricted for 30 days to 6 months. After 30 days, the person may request removal, and all previous rights will be restored.

The link to [apply to be added or removed from the temporary restriction list](#) is available [here](#).



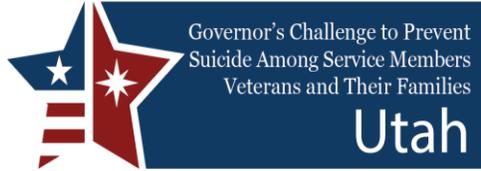
## What Options are **not** Recommended?

**Hiding Firearms is not Recommended:** Family members often know each other's hiding places.

**Doing Nothing is not Recommended:** If someone in your home has had suicidal thoughts or made a plan or attempt, please take them seriously and make your home safe by learning more and following the safety recommendations above. In addition, if someone you know is struggling, talk to them and offer to help.

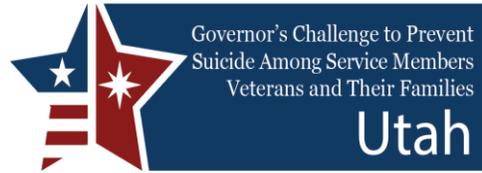
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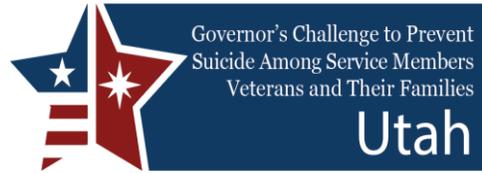
# UDVMA Suicide Prevention Manager

- Recognized the need for someone to focus on suicide prevention efforts for our Utah SMVF.
- Position is currently funded for FY23-FY25 through DHHS, OSUMH.



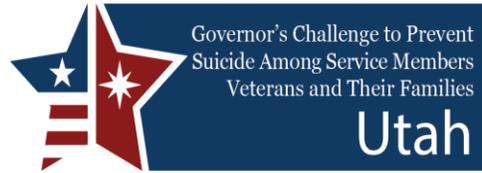
# Activities/Accomplishments

- Gun Safes
- Relationships/Outreach
- Trainings



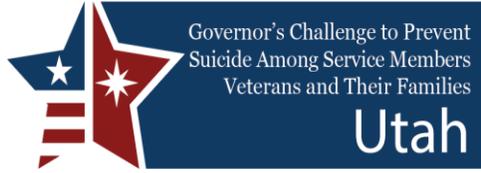
# Partnerships

- LiveOn
- Co-Chair of USPC Firearm Safety Working Group
- SMVF-focused/specific non-profit organizations
- Military units – HAFB, UTNG, Active Duty/Reserve Army units
- County Suicide Prevention Coordinators
- Member of several county suicide prevention coalitions
- Member of Utah Gun Safety Coalition
- Member of community firearm safety task forces



# Future Plans and Goals

- Increase number of city/community firearm safety task forces
- Partner with gun retailers and ranges to continue to promote safe storage
- Safe storage awareness events
- Military and Veteran Expo
- Continue with community engagement and involvement



# Questions / Discussion